30th January 1931]

(c) how many had to be admitted into the hospital;

(d) whether it is a fact that the people were pulled by their hair-tufts and dragged on the floor; and

(e) what action the Government have taken against the policemen who are responsible for this?

A.—(a) At about 3-30 p.m. on 25th December 1930 the Congress party at Coimbatore suddenly announced that there would be a meeting in the compound of the local Town Hall that evening at which addresses would be delivered on the boycott of the census, toddy shops and foreign cloth, and on the present political situation. At about 6-15 p.m. some 30 to 40 volunteers and Congressmen went to the compound of the Town Hall followed by a crowd of over 300 persons. One Jothinath Singh started singing national songs and the crowd began to swell and became restless and unruly. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dharapuram, then in temporary charge of the district, finding that a breach of the peace was imminent, asked those concerned not to sing and to discontinue the meeting. They asked for time to consider the question, which was allowed. After debating the matter for some twenty minutes they announced their intention of going on with the meeting as there was no order from any Magistrate prohibiting it. Thereupon one Rajagopalan of Udamalpet began to address the crowd. The Deputy Superintendent of Police again ordered the meeting to disperse, whereupon stones were thrown and a head constable and a police constable were hit. The temper of the assembly and the necessity of dispersing it thus becoming clear, the Deputy Superintendent of Police called in 15 constables who had been kept outside and dispersed the crowd by a lathi charge.

(b) & (c) About two persons received injuries. They were sent to the hospital but their injuries being slight, were not admitted as in-patients and did not again attend the hospital as out-patients.

(d) No.

(e) None.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *re* LATHI CHARGE BY THE POLICE IN GODOWN STREET, MADRAS.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, in view of the answers given by the hon. the Home Member, I am obliged to make an adjournment motion. Under Standing Order No. 19, I beg for leave to move—

'*that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence, namely, the needless and severe lathi charge and beating by the Police on the afternoon of the 28th instant in the Godown street, Madras, of Messrs. K. Bashyam, Advocate, V. A. Sundaram and others.*'"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second it."

[30th January 1931

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" No doubt, the matter has assumed some public importance. I want to know how it is urgent?"

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" The matter is urgent, because in the first place the public feeling is shocked. In the second place, if sufficient action is not taken at once, it is very likely that the Police will continue to conduct themselves in the same manner, which may result in very serious consequences. My statement is substantiated by the extremely unsatisfactory answers given by the hon. the Home Member on the floor of this House, following his statement, and I dare say you would see the necessity, the urgency and the importance of allowing this discussion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" The motion is in order. I want to know if any hon. Member objects. (After a pause.) Since no hon. Member has objected, the motion will be taken up for discussion. . . . ." (Cries of 'to-morrow.')

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" To-day, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Unless the Government want to have it to-morrow, it will have to be taken up to-day. The motion will be taken up for discussion at 4 o'clock this afternoon."

IV.—RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

(1) INTRODUCTION OF TOTAL PROHIBITION.

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, Mr. Singam Ayyangar who has drawn the ballot for this resolution has written to me to say that he is unwell and unable to attend the Council, and has asked some other hon. Member to move his resolution. May I ask, Sir, the permission of the House that my hon. Friend Mr. Yakub Hasan should move the resolution?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Has the hon. Member, Mr. Yakub Hasan, the permission of the House to move Resolution No. 1 on the agenda?"

The House signified its approval.

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:—

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that total prohibition should be introduced at once at least in one district in this Presidency.*'

" Sir, I have acquainted myself with all that has taken place in this Council in regard to this question of prohibition, and I have also read the Excise Advisory Committee's report that was submitted, and on which a resolution was passed that prohibition should be the goal and that it should be attained within a period of twenty years. My reading, Sir, of the proceedings of this Council on this subject, has created this impression in me, viz., that when the Justice Ministry was in power in